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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **ORIMOS S.A.** [CH/CH]; Grand' Rue 92, CH-1820 Montreux (CH).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: **WOLF, Dietrich** [DE/GB]; 27 Lawrence Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 7LW (GB).

(74) Agent: **SUNDERLAND, James, Harry**; Haseltine Lake Partners, Rosenheimer Strasse 30, 81669 München (DE).

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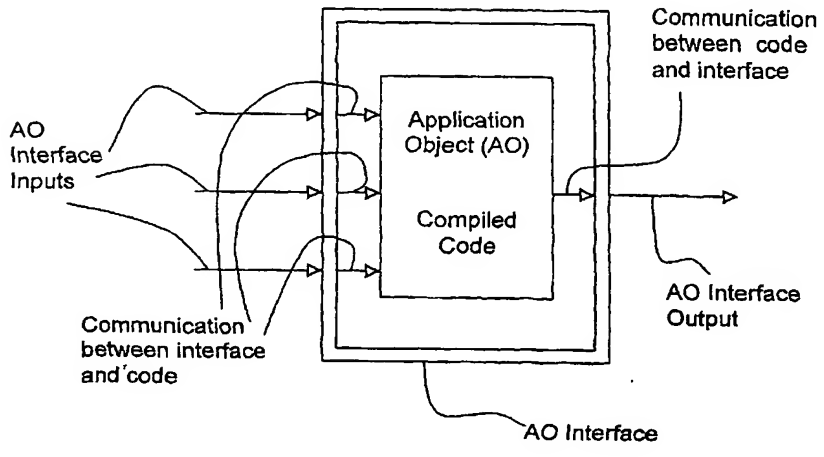
(54) Title: INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS CONFIGURED AND MANIPULATED UNDER AN APPLICATION FRAMEWORK



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides an application framework under which product applications are configured and manipulated, comprising: (a) application objects providing respective basic information processing functions for use in a product application , each application object containing its processing function within a standard interface with the inputs and output(s) of which the processing function communicates without regard to the connections of those inputs and output(s), (b) an architectural structure in which:- application objects are organised into a hierarchy , the application objects being in parent/child relationship one to another in the hierarchy, and the hierarchy comprising an assembly of application objects capable of providing for a product application an application function built from the basic information processing functions of the objects, and data dependencies between application objects are established means of connections between standard interface inputs and output(s) of application objects, whereby the hierarchy can be modified at run-time, and data dependency connections can be set up and/or deleted at run-time.

WO 2004/042567 A3

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	SHAH A ET AL: "Symphony: a Java-based composition and manipulation framework for distributed legacy resources" SOFTWARE ENGINEERING FOR PARALLEL AND DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS, 1999. PROCEEDINGS. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOS ANGELES, CA, USA 17-18 MAY 1999, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA,IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 17 May 1999 (1999-05-17), pages 1-11, XP010343691 ISBN: 0-7695-0191-5 page 1, left-hand column, line 3-9, paragraph 2 page 1, right-hand column, line 7-13, paragraph 2 page 6, right-hand column, line 8-13, paragraph 2 page 6, left-hand column, line 1-3, paragraph 2 -/--	1-6

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[ ] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Krischer, S

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	page 1, left-hand column, line 3-7, paragraph 1; figure 2 page 3, right-hand column, paragraph 4 page 4, right-hand column, line 1-3, last paragraph; figure 1	
Y	LORENZ D H ET AL: "Design-time assembly of runtime containment components" TECHNOLOGY OF OBJECT-ORIENTED LANGUAGES AND SYSTEMS, 2000. TOOLS 34. PROCEEDINGS. 34TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SANTA BARBARA, CA, USA 30 JULY-4 AUG. 2000, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA,IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 30 July 2000 (2000-07-30), pages 195-204, XP010511350 ISBN: 0-7695-0774-3 page 195, line 3-5, paragraph 3 page 199, paragraphs 1-4	1-6
A	"Sun Microsystems, JAVABEANS, specification 1.01 HAMILTON G. (editor), 24 July 1997, pages 1-114, XP002956519" JAVABEANS VERSION 1.01, XX, XX, 24 July 1997 (1997-07-24), pages 1-114, XP002956519 the whole document	1-6